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## CLAIMS

1. A method for treating or ameliorating a condition selected from:
  - (a) hepatic or cardiac or brain ischemia-reperfusion injury;
  - 5 (b) pulmonary hypertension; or
  - (c) cerebral artery vasospasm,in a subject by decreasing blood pressure and/or increasing vasodilation in the subject, the method comprising administering sodium nitrite to the subject to decrease the blood pressure and/or increase vasodilation in the subject, thereby treating or ameliorating the condition.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, which is a method for treating or ameliorating hepatic or cardiac or brain ischemia-reperfusion injury.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein administering sodium nitrite to the subject is  
15 intravenous.
4. The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered to a circulating concentration of about 0.6 to 240  $\mu\text{M}$ .
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, which is a method for treating or ameliorating pulmonary hypertension.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the pulmonary hypertension is neonatal pulmonary hypertension.  
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7. The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein administering sodium nitrite to the subject is by inhalation.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the sodium nitrite is nebulized.  
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9. The method of any one of claims 5 through 8, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered at a rate of 270  $\mu\text{mol/minute}$ .
10. The method of claim 1, which is a method for treating or ameliorating cerebral  
35 artery vasospasm.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein administering sodium nitrite to the subject is intravenous.

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12. The method of claim 10 or 11, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered at a rate of about 45 to 60 mg/kg.

13. The method of any one of claims 1-12, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered  
5 in combination with at least one additional agent.

14. The method of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the subject is a mammal.

15. The method of any one of claims 14, wherein the subject is a human.

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